

## **Joel Reynolds**

Joel Reynolds joined the staff of the Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) Los Angeles office as a Senior Attorney in 1990, after ten years with the Center for Law in the Public Interest and the Western Center on Law and Poverty, both in Los Angeles. He graduated in 1978 from Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and winner of the Convers Prize. After law school, he clerked for United States District Judge John R. Bartels in the Eastern District of New York. Since 1980, Joel has specialized in complex law reform litigation and has argued cases on behalf of environmental and community organizations at all levels of the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He currently specializes in issues of coastal protection, land use, marine mammal protection, environmental justice, and transportation.

Joel is director of the Marine Mammal Protection and Southern California Ecosystem projects and co-director of NRDC's Urban Program. As head of NRDC's Coastal Ecosystem and Marine Mammal Protection projects, he has spearheaded NRDC's efforts to obtain or preserve legal protection for wildlife and its habitat in California and Baja California, including the Pacific gray whale and the coastal California gnatcatcher. To protect California's coastal waters, he sued the sanitation districts to compel a \$400 million upgrade of Los Angeles County's sewage treatment plant, ending decades of illegal sewage discharges into southern California coastal waters. He codirected NRDC's successful five-year campaign against Mitsubishi Corporation's plan to industrialize the World Heritage Site at Laguna San Ignacio, the last undisturbed gray whale breeding lagoon on earth.

He sued the U.S. Navy to block a five-year underwater explosives program near the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and, currently, is directing NRDC's litigation that has blocked the Navy's proposed global deployment of a new high intensity submarine detection system called Low Frequency Active Sonar. He is recognized internationally as one of the leading advocates for the protection of marine mammals and other marine species and their habitat from the growing problem of ocean noise pollution caused by the generation of high intensity sound in the oceans. Since 1994, for example, he has successfully opposed military active sonar deployment around the world by the U.S. Navy, high energy seismic testing in the Santa Barbara Channel by Exxon U.S.A., intrusive acoustic research by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary ("ATOC"), and field testing of pulsed power generators by the National Marine Fisheries Service off the southern California coast. He has represented NRDC at the International Whaling Commission in 2002 and 2003.

Joel has worked with under-represented communities in administrative proceedings and litigation to oppose unwanted industrial, transportation, or public works projects such as incinerators, prisons, highways, toxic waste facilities, and power plants. For example, he represented the community of Glen Avon in seeking clean-up of the Stringfellow Acid Pits toxic waste dump in Riverside County and the communities of South Central and East Los Angeles in opposing the LANCER mass burn incinerator, the Vernon toxic waste incinerator, and the East LA Prison. He successfully challenged the State of California's failure to implement a lead-screening program for Medicaid-eligible children under the age of six. Most recently, he has

represented broad coalitions in Los Angeles seeking to acquire and develop the Chinatown Cornfield and Taylor Yard as state parks in the heart of downtown and to prevent the siting of a power plant in a planned park in the Baldwin Hills.

For four years, Joel was Endangered Species Editor for the *Land Use and Environment Forum*, published by the California State Bar. In 1994, he was a member of the United States delegation to the Third International Conference on Environmental Enforcement and, from 1994 to 1997, a member of the State of California Blue Ribbon Commission on Unified Environmental Statute. From 1986 through 1990, Joel served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern California Law Center. In 1998, he was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy to the Oceanographic Research Advisory Board, a federal advisor to the National Oceanographic Research Leadership Council.

As an expert on marine mammals, Joel regularly speaks to conventions and groups across the country on marine mammal protection. He has contributed opinion pieces to *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*, has appeared on the CBS, NBC, ABC, and CNN nightly news broadcasts and is quoted frequently by publications including *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He is also widely quoted on issues about environmental justice and has appeared on the *Bill Rosendahl Show*, *Lawson Live*, and *Life and Times*.

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has more than 500,000 members nationwide, served from offices in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco. More information is available through NRDC's Web site at <http://www.nrdc.org>.